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24 • The GAZETTE, Montreal, Wed., Dec. 24, 1975

Holiday programs to ease the spirits

If you're among Canadians who celebrate Christmas tomorrow, you're probably facing a hectic day and evening, bracing yourself for the festive demands of Thursday, and seriously contemplating a permanent move to Pago Pago.

In the interests of helping to smooth the path between now and Christmas morning, herewith a selection of some radio and TV offerings which may sooth or divert as occasion demands:

Tonight you may be wrapping presents, trimming the tree, or trying to put together one of those children's toys that's delivered in a thousand pieces of which three essential bits are missing.

Holiday spirit

If you're in the vicinity of a TV set there are several programs available to encourage the holiday spirit without demanding too much viewing attention.

At 8 p.m. there's Christmas music by the DeSanto choir on CFCF, and by Arthur Fiedler, the Boston Pops, and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus on channel 12.

At 8:30 p.m. CBC-TV presents a ballet-mime to the music of Johann Strauss Jr. — Vienna Cinderella, filmed in Vienna and Hungary.

At 9 p.m. channel 13's Great Performance series features Arthur Rubinstein and the London Symphony Orchestra under Andre Previn in an all-Chopin program.

The CBC English network continues at 9:30 p.m. with a Christmas music-fantasy set to the music of J. S. Bach. At 10 p.m. the French network offers Rhapsodie de Noel, a program of Christmas music from Notre-Dame church performed by the Radio-Canada orchestra and les Petits Chanteurs de Trois-Rivieres.

Religious programs

At 11:30 p.m. the CBC English network presents the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols from the Church of St. Simon the Apostle in Toronto. NBC goes to the Vatican for the closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter's and the Pope's celebration of the Christmas Mass, and ABC presents Christmas in New York from the Rockefeller Center skating rink.

At midnight the CBC French network will carry the Mass celebrated by the Pope in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. At the same time CBS offers an original oratorio from the First Baptist Church in Providence, R.I., founded in 1638.

Radio &TV

by Joan Irwin

A final musical offering comes at 1:15 a.m. on the French network — a film portrait of virtuoso fiddler Jean Carignan.

If you prefer movies to music, CFCF has The Impossible Years at 8:30 p.m. — David Niven as the psychiatrist father of a rubble daughter.

On the same station at midnight there's Come to the Stable, with Celeste Holm and Loretta Young as nuns trying to build a children's hospital.

If you're still up at 1 a.m. you can watch the late Bing Crosby-Barry Fitzgerald Oscar-winner Going My Way on CBMT.

CBC radio

On the radio side, CBC-FM's Afternoon Concert today at 1:03 p.m. includes seasonal music by Bach and Vaughan Williams, among others, and the second half of Gruwski on FM (beginning at 5:03 p.m.) features Maureen Forrester in Christmas songs from around the world.

The Forrester program will also be heard on Christmas Day on Music of Our People on CBC-AM at 6:10 p.m.

If you missed Handel's Messiah last night on CBC-AM you can hear it on Christmas night on CBC-FM at 9:03 p.m.

Judy Show

Finally, if you're feeling up to something that may be rather giggly and cutsey-pus, CBC-AM's Judy Show will give us its own version of A Christmas Carol this morning between 9:10 a.m. and noon.

Featured in the cast are Pierre Berton as Bob Cratchit, Alan McFee as Scrooge, Toronto mayor David Crombie as Tiny Tim, Red Kelly as Marley's ghost, Foster Hewitt as the Spirit of Christmas Past, Judy LaMarsh as the Spirit of Christmas Present, and Max Ferguson as Charles Dickens.

Merry Christmas.

TV TODAY

CBFT (2) Montreal
WCAX (3) Burlington, Vt.
CBOT (4) Ottawa
WPTZ (5) Plattsburgh, N.Y.
CBMT (6) Montreal
(6) Global TV, Ottawa
CHLT (7) Sherbrooke
WMTW (8) Poland Spring, Me.
CJON (9) Cornwall
(9) Cable TV
NCS (9) Nat'l Cablevision
CBOFT (11) Ottawa
CFTM (10) Montreal
CKWS (11) Kingston
CFCF (12) Montreal
CJOH (13) Ottawa
CIVM (17) Montreal
WVNY (22) Burlington, Vt.
WETK (33) Burlington, Vt.

Christmas Day viewing

Adventurous jaunt

Nadeau spills emotion

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
for The Gazette

Pierre Nadeau is back on the scene this week at the Hotel Nelson's Evenke club, presenting a deeply personal approach that is comprised of a wild mongrel pastiche of styles. The Nadeau sextet follows no popular convention — allowing for an adventurous jaunt crossing otherwise "taboo" musical boundaries.

Nadeau is "Le gros Pierre" of Robert Charlebois' epic song, Ordinaire; he composed its solemn climbing melody and was the Quebecois superstar's band leader for a while in 1968. Then he more or less dropped out of sight, often playing as cocktail pianist and musical revue accompanist to earn his living, until he stepped back into the spotlight in 1973 as a member of the Ville Emard area Blues Band.

The dissolution of that multi-member utopian musical combine resulted in the formation of two more or less active groups, Tonbolou and Le Gros Pierre.

Nadeau is a brooding performer who spills his emotions over acoustic piano, electric piano and synthesizer. His compositions take off on so many different styles at the most unpredictable times — from hyper jazz-rock structures to romantic European classicism to the blues.

SENTIMENTAL

He has a sentimental touch reminiscent, strangely, of Roger Williams — but he improvises with an oft eerie sense of personal drama. You get the impression that the name in Nadeau's sweet release and he loves to drawl himself within complex and far reaching settings.

His group is led by bassist Bill Gagnon, the driving light of Ville Emard and perhaps the craziest bassist performing today — so crazy, in fact, that some other musicians think he loses control and goes too far. And they're right — but Gagnon is making a kind of exultant heavy breathing noise that has brazen disregard for the "rules" is his forte. He hums and blares with gutty sounds, hitting wild time changes while concentrating upon moods of Nadeau, whom he has known since public school in Verdun.

The communication between the two, at its best, is a solid foundation for the rest of the group, comprised of two guitarists (Rene Vincent and Raven Bankley, who respectively show interesting soul-rock and raga-rock styles), drummer Marcel Huot (a hard driving craftsman) and vocalist June Wallack, who adds a strong blues feel.

The Nadeau sextet is exploding with the kind of energy that comes only after long layoffs (the current show had been delayed a couple of months). At once, they confront us with a possessed spirit so reminiscent of the old San Francisco acid groups, as well as a "free" jazz approach which, despite occasional pitfalls, is absorbing; and the clarinet melancholia.

It all adds up to a heady potent brew for those looking for something different.

Jones' quartet fine

By NIGHTHAWK
for The Gazette

In Concert was keeping up with the Jones last night — and drummer Elvin Jones and his quartet were simply magnificent.

To a lot of groups, the first set has strange "rehearsal" qualities. Not so with Jones and his friends. The minute they got on the stage, music making was at its peak.

This time, Jones comes to Montreal with two Canadian sidemen in his group. Bernie Senensky, from Toronto, is on acoustic piano, and was introduced by Jones as "... one of the finest pianists I have worked with in my career."

On tenor sax, a new Canadian, Pat La Barbera, who recently moved to Toronto and has been a member of the Jones's quartet for a year on and off. His previous gigs were with Buddy Rich, Woody Herman and Louis Belson. He also plays soprano sax and flute.

David Williams plays acoustic bass, and is one of the very few bassists who are melodic enough to actually be featured as a "front-line" instrument. He's a treat.

The crowd was in a receptive mood, for the opening set, and the room was studded with some of Montreal's best drummers — and no wonder.

Elvin Jones is truly one of the greatest drummers ever and his understanding of zoology and dynamics is unique. In some tunes his playing is so discreet as to be hardly noticeable, but his accents shine like jewels and his dosage of beat is superb. When a tune needs some steam, Elvin emerges with thunder and drives like a maniac into tribal frenzy.

Pat La Barbera exhibited his bright attack and an acid edge, on tenor, in Ferde Grofe's On The Trail, and took exciting short segments of flat-out runs. He painted interesting images of geometric flights — sometimes reminiscent of Charlie Parker.

Senensky is poetic, romantic and florid, yet his syncopations are full of glittering runs and his left hand urges on with a powerful drive. He expressed some strong Bud Powell influence, particularly in his solo on Some Other Blues.

That tune, a real be-bopping swinger, ended with a masterpiece of a solo from Elvin who uses a veritable battery of drums: a snare, four tom-toms, three cymbals, a high hat, and a brass drum. The audience roared, screamed and hollered in an outstanding ovation.

The previous tune, Naima, one of John Coltrane's most poetic tunes, had hushed and caressed all fists — well in keeping with Elvin's tactics who sees in life many occasions for beating the drum in celebration.

Elvin and his sidemen will be drumming up a storm through this Sunday at In Concert. They're worth keeping up with.

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